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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT New Railroad Lines

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25X1A

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DATE DISTR. 26 Nov 1953

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. Construction has begun again, with renewed vigor, on the railway line from Divnoe to the port of Astrakhan, at the mouth of the Volga. This line has been under construction for the last eighteen months, but work on it had slowed down for some time, until the present burst of energy. Considerable quantities of various materials, needed for the construction of the line, have been piling up in the railroad station at Divnoe, for the last month.
2. Along the line as surveyed (Stavropol-Divnoe) two construction bases are being set up at present. One is at Stepnoy, the other at Krasnoe.
3. As part of the effort to improve communications in the Stavropol area, the route already existing between Stavropol and the Black Sea port of Sukhumi has been repaired and enlarged. This line goes through Nevinnomyssk and Cherkessk. Some new bridges of reinforced concrete have been built along this route as have a number of subterranean depots for oil fuel. These last are entirely for military use.
4. New port installations and military construction have been observed in the Strait of Kerch, leading from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov.
5. Two construction "Kombinats" have been especially active in these operations: the Ukrvodstroy Kombinat and the Krimportstroy Kombinat. The latter is an industrial organization which is never mentioned in the press. Its entire work is in highly secret strategic enterprises.

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